

PUBLIC MEETING.

AT A MEETING of all the Inhabitants of Saint Davids, (women excepted) and Transported in wagons to Niagara on Saturday the 31st of March, 1832, convened by the following Requisition at the "Exchange Coffee House," and Adjourned to the Court Room :—

NOTICE.

AT the request of the Friends of William Lyon MacKenzie, in the District of Niagara, Notice is hereby given, that a Meeting will take place on Saturday, the 31st of March, instant, at the Exchange, in the Town of Niagara, at 12 o'clock, noon, to take into consideration the present state of the Province, and to adopt an Address to His Majesty King William the Fourth, expressive of public opinion on matters connected with the prosperity and welfare of this Colony.
Niagara, 24th of March, 1832.

"Bill Boiler," Ex. M. P. insisted upon acting as chairman, and Ned Temperance, another Ex. M. P. assumed the appointment of Secretary : The chairman, *fundamentally* qualified for filling any chair, with that inoffensive ambition peculiar to him, *scrambled* into the Judiciary Seat in the Court Room, where the Secretary perched himself at his elbow—After smoothing his plumes (somewhat ruffled by grasping at the chair) and assuming a mimic dignity and grace, the chairman looked down upon his friends, (M'Kenzie's dupes) and addressed them in the following *high pressure* tone and *flour-y* strain :—

My Discontented Friends & Reformers :

THIS MEETING, according to the Notice, was called by the Friends of Wm. Lyon M'Kenzie at the Exchange (to be called Reform Coffee House hereafter) : much against our inclination we have come here ;—we owe the place a grudge ever since last Town

Wm. M'Kenzie
Edw. M. B. B.

Meeting-day. I need not advert to the fact that *all* St. Davids has turned out, and that *one or two* of us must suffer for the expense incurred in their transportation here; that we passed through Queenston without opposition. We arrived in safety at the "Exchange" about 11 o'clock, A. M. Not finding M'Kenzie there, and suspicious of being *duped*, we adjourned to this place; to shew fight at the meeting called by the Sheriff. We are here assembled with our opponents to contend against *M'Kenzie's foes* within their own walls—on their own grounds;—we will make them *afraid* of the *dagger*! the *bludgeon*! or the *firebrand*! But, now they see Diana is in danger! see them! see, how they shrink! see, terror strikes them! Diana is in danger!—Let the Officials come on: Reform! Reform, we will have in some shape and some where: M'Kenzie for Sir John Colborne; Lawyer "*Don't you See*" for Chief Justice; or this Court House at Davids!! Gather together your *Grievances*! *rake up* and *bundle* your revenge! call it loyalty! call it what you will! frighten the women and the ignorant! gull the simple! astonish the credulous! threaten the dubious! assume sanctity!! It will help much. Up! and be doing!! Now, *heup up* and *throw* in your Resolutions with the Political Pitchfork. I feel what I say: Although my Speech is un concocted, my arguments are pithy, yet not *flour-y*. I know you can *sift* the *shorts* from the *bran* and the *middlings* from the *chaff*: Turn over and examine my ideas in your own vacant *coolers*.—If in my Address I should *bolt*, pardon me; and attribute the digression to the disorderly *gearing* of my *reformed* brain.—To conclude, Saint Davidites—If we don't, in the progress of this Day's Proceedings, *grind* the opponents of Wm. Lyon, M'Kenzie in the *Political Steam Mill* of Democracy, may I suffer myself to be *run over*, put through the horrors of a *smut machine*, or have my *clapper* silenced. Then *fire up*, my boys! excite and kindle! raise *steam* to a *summit level*! (but watch your *safety valves*; I once burst). A Political Explosion in this District, which you know M'Kenzie thinks the *Apple of his Eye*, would make an awful exposure.—Here the Chairman called for *water* and a *white* pocket handkerchief, and the assembled friends stood with hair and ears erect; eyes starting from their sockets; and their fingers straightened!!

The few moments that elapsed to enable the Chairman to *fire up* again and *raise steam*, admitted of taking a peep at the characters convened as M'Kenzie's *friends*; and in that short interval I discovered the following *distinguished* Persons, forming a group worthy the Pencil of Hogarth:

1st. Comes *Adam Apple Tree*: The man who swore in open court, that he put "*Lawyer Don't you See*" into Parliament; the same man who bears the whole *huff* of the *vanity* of *Question*; and who, at an election for *Pound-keeper*, made such a *duration* that *actilly*, on the points of honour, nothing like it was heard since the days of *Cicero*.

2d. *Jacob Thorold*, with his puritanical pate, stood stupified, as it were, dreaming of the Great Meeting. "*The Voice of Lincoln*," held at his own door, envying *Bill Boiler* the exalted seat he held; opened his mouth, and in the act of ejaculating a *revival groan* or some *love feast* exclamation, he drew down the stovepipe on his scone.

3d. *John Louth*, M. P. and would-be Magistrate in his own imagination; big with parliamentary importance, but deep in the wane of political popularity; felt sorry for his little political God, *M'Konzie*, and winced for him when the lash was applied. This Gentleman, first a thorough Gourlayite; afterwards, ashamed, turned Executive tool, then to procure a job in the Welland Canal, turned again; then to effect his election, wheeled again into *line*, and now stands in a pre-eminently ridiculous situation.

4th. *Bill Fall Bottler*, in his drab *Benjamin*, and *Pearl Buttons*, cocked his cat's eye at the Chairman, and knowingly squeaked out, "*What you doin there all the time?*"

5th. *Lawyer don't you see*, M. P. P. stood pre-eminent in the group, seemed agitated within, but dared not speak—holding his ivory-headed cane in both hands; he ever and anon rose, put his foot on the seat, (the table was too high) and his arm on his knee, peeping at *Bill Boiler* over the ridge of his spectacles.

6th. *Dick Boiler*, brother to the Chairman, felt more than he said; and it is supposed, that, having business with *Jack Bobstay*, at the Court House, when the meeting commenced, remained to see the *Pantomim* performed.

7th. *Henry A. B. C.* only asked for information on some question about the clergy reserves, and did it in that *meek* and *supplicating* tone of voice, that the Chairman, it is thought, would have answered the young man, if he had known how; but the Question was a poser.

8th. *Chester Tick Tick* was discerned in the crowd, by his azure luminaries, yearning to be heard, but could not find words to express himself: he seemed *thrown off his balance*; but with his foot for a *Pendulum*, correctly *kept time* with the *vibrations* of the chairman's cadences and flights of fancy!

9th. *Tim Crystal*, once *Chester Tick Tick's* main-spring, honest lad, inserted himself *horizontally* in the centre of the *St. Davidites*, and formed one of the wheels for setting the works of the day in operation.

10th. *Henry Brick-bat*, brother of *Apple Tree*, was there too, mud to the eyes, and with his *Oz gad* kept himself ready to *haw* or *gee*, as circumstances of the case required.

11th. *Bill Barrel Bulk*, picked up at *Queenston*, as the procession came through, that he might pay part of the expense, looked as if he wished himself working at the assessment roll, or any where else, but in the space he occupied in the Court room.

12th. The last of the *Group*, and not least among them, in his own imagination, was *David Rail Road*, *Ex-P. M.* not *M. P.*—he rose up, looked round—said, “*Mr. Chairman*”; sat down, then rose up again, speechless, and almost motionless, evinced every inclination to cry! but refrained, on being told that *Sufering David* was kept hard by to act that part:—Other prominent Characters might be mentioned, whose attitudes, actions, and expressions, might do justice to *Hogarth*; but the limits of a Picture like the present, will not admit of increasing the *group*—suffice it to say; the meeting dispersed, to meet outside, by order of the *Chairman*; on arriving at the foot of the *Staircase*, the *Chairman* was seen erect in a wagon; and it is said that *Ned Temperance* was seen beneath with pen, ink and paper in one hand, and in the other the resolutions, acting as *under Secretary*. Here *Bill Boiler*, in the exuberance of his loyalty, raised his hat to hurra for *William the Fourth* and the *Reform Ministry*, when the wind and the inclination of the horses made him incline forward, and in the act of falling from the stage, was heard to utter the word “*reform*,” in articulate accents, but was not seen after.

WAG.